

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Silica particles, comprising the following physical properties:

BET surface area:	100-700 m <sup>2</sup> /g;
DBP absorption:	100-500 g/100 g;
tamped density:	100-250 g/l;
ALPINE sieve residue > 63μ:	< 5%; and
particle sizes (cumulative volume distribution):	d <sub>95</sub> < 40 μm;
	d <sub>50</sub> < 20 μm; and
	d <sub>5</sub> < 10 μm;

and wherein the silica particles are formed from silica dried in a pulse combustion dryer.

Claim 2 (Original): The silica particles as claimed in claim 1, which are precipitated silica particles.

Claim 3 (Original): The silica particles as claimed in claim 1, which are pyrogenic silica particles.

Claim 4 (Original): The silica particles as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an organic coating.

Claim 5 (Original): The silica particles as claimed in claim 1, which are hydrophobic silica particles.

Claim 6 (Original): The silica particles as claimed in claim 1, which have a wettability coefficient of less than 3.4.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A coating, comprising the silica particles as claimed in claim 1 and a binder.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A silica-filled polymer, comprising the silica particles as claimed in claim 1 and a polymer.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The silica-filled polymer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polymer is an elastomer.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A tire, comprising the silica particles as claimed in claim 1 and a rubber.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A process for producing silica having a narrow particle size distribution, comprising:

drying a silica suspension in pulse combustion dryer to produce silica particles having the following particle size distribution (cumulative volume distribution):

$d_5 < 10 \mu\text{m}$ ;

$d_{50} < 20 \mu\text{m}$ ; and

$d_{95} < 40 \mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, which is carried out at a drying temperature of 400 to 800°C.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the silica suspension has a solids content of from 5 to 25% by weight.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising, prior to the drying, coating the silica with an organic coating.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising, prior to the drying, making the silica hydrophobic.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the silica particles have a w<sub>k</sub> coefficient of less than 3.4.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising, after the drying, classifying the silica particles.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pulse combustion dryer comprises a swirl-inducing element for an air stream used in the drying.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising contacting the silica particles with a monomer mixture, and polymerizing the monomer mixture to produce a silica-filled polymer.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the polymer is an elastomer.

Claim 21 (New): Silica particles, comprising the following physical properties:

BET surface area:	100-700 m <sup>2</sup> /g;
DBP absorption:	100-500 g/100 g;
tamped density:	100-250 g/l;
ALPINE sieve residue > 63μ:	< 5%; and
particle sizes (cumulative volume distribution):	d <sub>95</sub> < 40 μm;
	d <sub>50</sub> < 20 μm; and
	d <sub>5</sub> < 10 μm;

and wherein the particle shape is more uniform and spherical compared to spray-dried products and milled powder.